

Amendment and Response  
Applicants: John C. Oslund et al.  
Serial No.: 10/823,139

Attorney Docket: ev31010USD1

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**REMARKS**


Claims 1, 3 to 18, 31, 56 to 59, and 61 to 70 were pending. All of these claims have been canceled without prejudice above, and claims 71 to 82 have been added. Claims 71 to 82 are similar to canceled claims 62 to 70. After entry of this amendment, claims 71 to 82 will be pending and under examination.

The Examiner made an election of species requirement on page two of the July 14, 2006 Office Action. In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect species I, movable ferrule or similar structure. Claims 71 to 73, 75 to 77, and 79 to 81 read on the elected species.

The July 28, 2005 Office Action included some PTO-1449 forms that were signed by the Examiner. The Office Action did not include a signed copy of the PTO-1449 form included with the March 29, 2005 Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner sign and return this PTO-1449 form to Applicants' representatives.

If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-2312. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 8, 2006By: 

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